

SURE MEXICO WILL GUARD U. S. RIGHTS

Ambassador Fletcher Says
President Carranza Has
Done Great Work.

HERE FOR CONFERENCES

American rights in Mexico will be safeguarded by the Mexican government, according to Ambassador Henry P. Fletcher, who is here from Mexico City for conferences with State Department officials, with an optimistic view of the situation in the southern republic.

The ambassador declared today that there toward this country had become more friendly since the recall of the German minister, the notorious von Eckhardt, and the consequent cessation of anti-American propaganda. President Carranza in the last two years, he said, had accomplished a great work in preparing for development and reconstruction and in reorganizing the public service, and he had made headway in this respect that the various bandit leaders now were without real influence and were operating in small bands. He said Carranza was the real power in Mexico.

Says Troubles Will Be Adjusted.

Of paramount importance, the ambassador said, was the possibility that the troubles of oil interests, including American, soon would be adjusted. He said up to this time no decrees had been enforced and no taxes collected under the new constitution vesting direct ownership of all mineral lands, including petroleum, in the state. The oil interests have objected vigorously to these decrees and the United States government has made serious representations.

President Carranza appointed a committee of his cabinet to confer with the oil men, Mr. Fletcher explained, and the position of the American companies was made entirely clear. President Carranza submitted the question to the Mexican congress, which he believed before the matter could be taken up. It is now generally understood that the president will call a special session of congress in April or May to consider among other things petroleum legislation, and the oil companies have been asked to appear and present their case. The ambassador expressed the opinion that ultimately a law would be passed recognizing the rights of American citizens acquired under the laws of Mexico in good faith, and at the same time be in harmony with the sovereign rights of Mexico in respect to taxation and regulation of industry.

Very Little Smuggling of Arms.

Relative to the smuggling of arms and ammunition across the border, the ambassador said that this was on a very limited scale, and that the Mexican government realized the United States was doing its utmost to suppress smuggling. He also said that he did not believe Mexico had any intention of presenting itself before the peace conference at Paris, and that, on the other hand, was decidedly opposed to any foreign meddling in the adjustment of her internal affairs.

The foreign debt of Mexico, upon which no interest has been paid since 1913, and the general public debt of the country now are being considered by the government and steps are being taken to adjust them. Mr. Fletcher said a representative might be sent to the United States in the near future to study the possibilities of making some financial adjustment. The reorganization of the Mexican army is yet too recent, according to Mr. Fletcher, to pass judgment upon its effect. The railroads of the country are gradually being placed on the footing before the revolution, and Mr. Fletcher emphasized the executive quality of President Carranza, which was enabling him to overcome the numerous obstacles in his way in adjusting the great task he confronted when he came into power.

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NAVY DIRECTS RELEASES FROM VARIOUS BRANCHES

Orders Relate to 40 Per Cent of
Reserves, 40 of Those Enlisted
for War and Others.

Rear Admiral Victor Blue, chief of the bureau of navigation, has informed Chairman Padgett of the House naval committee that the Navy Department has directed to date the release of 40 per cent of the reserves, 40 per cent of the men who enlisted for the war and 20 per cent of the men who, since the beginning of the war, had enlisted for the regular four-year period.

In addition, he said, orders had been given during the last few days to discharge 20,000 men of the reserve and those enlisted for the war who are now performing shore duties, and also all men of these classes at training camps and trade schools who desire their release.

New enlistments in the Navy now are at the rate of about 1,600 a week, the admiral said, but he added that the full effect of new enlistments on demobilization plans would not be felt for several months, as the new men would have to be trained before they could be sent to ships.

TRANSPORT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK ANNOUNCED

Three Are Expected at New York
and Two at Newport News
With Various Troops.

The transport Finland is due at Newport News about February 12 with approximately 3,000 men and officers, largely in casual companies, and 800 sick and wounded. There are complete casual companies for Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New York (2) and Minnesota, and casual detachments for Camp Funston, Grant, Meade and Pike. Base hospital No. 15, for Fort Slocum, and headquarters 34th Coast Artillery Brigade also are on the ship.

On Way to New York.

The transport Stockholm is due at New York February 12, with headquarters and Companies A, B, C and D, 35th Infantry, of the 93d Division, more than a thousand strong. The units of this regiment will be distributed through Camps Upton, Taylor, Lee, Gordon, Travis, Funston, Sherman and Meade. The ship also is bringing the 35th Company, Transportation Corps (negroes), for Camp Meade; negro casual companies for Maryland, Iowa and Mississippi. There are aboard, in addition, 375 casual officers.

Transport Antigone.

The transport Antigone will arrive at Newport News February 13, with headquarters and batteries A, D, E and F, 25th Field Artillery, 84th Division, for Camp Taylor; Battery E, 325th Field Artillery, for Camp Taylor, and headquarters and batteries A to F, inclusive, 225th Field Artillery, 86th Division, for Camp Grant; a detachment of Battery F, 47th Coast Artillery Regiment, casual companies for New York and Virginia, and a number of marine casualties and 20 casual officers.

13 Ships Released for Trade.

Thirteen additional vessels have been released for commercial trade by the United States Shipping Board. Five of the vessels have been assigned to South American and West Indian ports, five to European relief and the remainder to South American commerce.

PENWOMEN TO GIVE CARNIVAL AND BALL

League Arranges Programs Here to
Start Fund for Erection of
Permanent Home.

An authors' carnival and ball will be held at the Willard Hotel February 14 and a children's entertainment February 15 by the League of American Penwomen, to start a fund for the erection of a permanent home in Washington for women who write.

These events are announced as first steps in a well mapped out program of the league to develop in Washington a literary atmosphere common to the capitals of other big nations.

Rooms Soon Outgrown.

The league calls attention to the fact that the war brought many literary women to the National Capital, creating a need for a clubhouse and general meeting place here. The league met this need by opening clubrooms at 1223 H street. These rooms soon were outgrown, it is stated. Now the plan is to establish headquarters which will be a home as well as a club.

On the night of February 14 guests at the carnival will masquerade as famous characters of literature. Mrs. Isaac Pearson, president of the league, is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Marie Moore Forrest will supervise the hall decorations and pageantry.

The afternoon of February 15 will be for children. The program will consist of tableaux from fairy tales and other juvenile books. Mrs. Emma Smith Tiffin is in charge of this program. An auction sale of widely read books, autographed by the authors, also will be held.

List of Patronesses.

The list of patronesses is headed by Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and Mrs. Thomas Marshall. Others are Mrs. William Howard Taft, Mrs. Burleson, Mrs. Daniels, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Houston, Mme. de Riano, Mrs. William Phillips, Mrs. Breckinridge Long, Mrs. George Barnett, Mrs. Willard Salsbury, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, Mrs. Larz Anderson, Mrs. Marshall Field, Mrs. Charles Broughton Wood, Mrs. Louis Brownlow, Mrs. W. Gwynn Gardner, Mme. G. Bakmeteff, Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins, Princess Ghika, Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth, Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, Mrs. Gibson Farnestock, Mrs. C. C. Glover, Mrs. John Hays Hammond, Mrs. Hennen Jennings, Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, Mrs. John B. Henderson, Mrs. Charles S. Brownell, Mrs. George Thacher Guernsey, Mrs. R. D. Shepherd, Miss Mabel Boardman, Mrs. Z. T. Stottsbury, Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, Mrs. Maurice Francis Egan, Mrs. Medill McCormick and Mrs. Thomas Logan.

Julius Sondheimer's Will Filed.

The Washington Hebrew Congregation is given \$500 by the will of Julius Sondheimer, dated May 23, 1917, and offered for probate. The United Hebrew Charities is to have \$100, Jewish Foster Home, \$50; Jewish Orphan Asylum, Atlanta, Ga., \$100; Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society and National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives, both of Denver, Col., \$25 each.

Premises at 1507 L street northwest and 428 P street northwest are given to his daughter, Mrs. Thekla Rosenthal. The testator's business and the property in which it is located at 509 and 511 7th street southwest are devised to his son, Irvin Sondheimer. Another daughter, Mrs. Hortense Goldenberg, is to have the property at 619 M street northwest, 1201 Madison street and 410 L street northwest with \$8,000 in cash. Lawrence Sondheimer, a son, also is to have \$3,000 in cash and premises at 913 and 913 1/2 7th street and the property at 4 1/2 and K streets southwest. A bequest of \$1,000 is made to a grandchild, Clara E. Rosenthal, and \$200 to a niece, Nannette Sondheimer. The sons and Maurice D. Rosenberg are named as executors.

Of the fifteen lines comprising the system of Chinese government railways only one was built by the Chinese themselves.

PHILADELPHIA MINT OUTPUT IN PAST YEAR RECORD BREAKER

Probably the largest annual output of any mint in the world at any time in history, the coinage executed at the mint in Philadelphia in the course of the fiscal year ending June 30 last was certainly the largest in the history of any mint in the United States. There is no record anywhere of any mint production approaching it.

The coinage consisted of 465,000,000 pieces of domestic currency and more than 20,000,000 pieces of foreign money and coinage blanks of the United States. The Denver mint coined 128,500,000 pieces, almost three times its output of the previous year. At San Francisco the coinage of 153,000,000 pieces was double that of the year before and four times that of the preceding year.

The total coinage of all the mints, 714,129,119 pieces, face value of \$14,536,896.21, is a stupendous achievement. More than half, 445,628,201 pieces of the coinage was in one-cent pieces.

Brings About Higher Efficiency.

A practical metallurgist and miner, Ray T. Baker, director of the mint, has seen the possibilities of bringing mints and assay offices of the west up to a higher standard of efficiency with benefit to the government and the public, and with relief to the larger and more important establishments of the east. The result has been that the various plants were in a position to perform the extraordinary duties required of the mint service by war exigencies.

The installation of electrical furnaces to reduce all metals has been one of his innovations working for larger efficiency. Also the western assay offices have been put in condition for larger operations, and refineries have been enlarged. At some of the offices, particularly at Salt Lake City, where the number of assays doubled, the increase in activities has been notable. Samples of ore submitted by the general land office and the forest service have increased the demand for western facilities. Refineries also were called upon for year-round service.

The mint service has been entrusted with all the government dealings in platinum. Receipt and determination of values of platinum deposits, refin-

ing of platinum and its manufacture into shapes for use of government institutions, particularly in connection with war work, has been an important duty devolving upon the New York assay office.

Here a special division was established for receiving, assaying, melting and refining, and special furnaces were installed. This activity grew from an almost negligible quantity to the greatest platinum plant in the world.

Gold handled by the mint service in the course of the year was valued at \$226,913,844.35. None of this was coined—the industrial arts con-

sumed \$52,916,641, and export account amounted to \$121,836,033. The stock of bullion in the mints and assay offices June 30 last was valued at \$1,789,559,152.15, an increase over the preceding year of \$14,855,510.79. This vast treasure had to be housed and carefully guarded.

Asks 750 Millions for Railroads.

Congress was urged yesterday to appropriate \$750,000,000 for the railroad administration's revolving fund in addition to \$500,000,000 which it originally authorized. Director General Elmes, appearing in favor of this item before the House appropriations committee, said the appropriation should be made regardless of whether government control of the roads was relinquished within a few months as the money was necessary for improvements which the roads themselves would be unable to finance.

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